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17 March 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
Director, Intelligence Community Staff

17 MAR 1982

FROM:

Deputy Director, Intelligence Community Staff

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SUBJECT: Cabinet Council Meeting on Landsat

1. At your request, I attended the Cabinet Council on Commerce and Trade meeting on 17 March 1982. One of the agenda items concerned the transfer of Landsat to the private sector. As you know, the transfer of the civil meteorological satellites to the private sector is also linked to the Landsat issue.

2. Most of the discussion centered on the policy implications of transferring the meteorological satellites to the private sector. It was noted that there were national security concerns that should be carefully examined. General Stilwell represented Defense at the meeting and indicated that he believed the national security concerns could be assessed expeditiously. Therefore, the decision was to allot thirty days to study the national and international policy issues associated with commercializing the civil weather satellite services and then, if warranted, proceed with a competitive bidding process to determine actual cost impacts. This, in effect, is a compromise between Options 1 and 2 of the decision paper. We had supported either option, and therefore, believe this is a good outcome.

3. With regard to Landsat transfer to the private sector, the decision was deferred for 30 days to await the results of the study of the issues regarding the weather satellites. The discussion reflected the opinion that Landsat would probably have to be packaged with the weather satellites to attract sufficient interest from the private sector. Therefore, the Landsat decision should not be made independently of the weather satellite decision.

All portions of this memorandum
are UNCLASSIFIED.

4. I anticipate that the action to study the policy implications of the weather satellite transfer will be referred back to the Working Group of the Cabinet Council on Commerce and Trade. I will keep you informed of the study results.

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